

CAR Demonstrates: CIA Agent Rebuffed

By Jon Storm

Thirty members of the Committee of Action and Resistance stayed off the CIA Thursday in a confrontation at Brainerd Mears House: Harry L. Russell, a recruiter for the intelligence agency was forbidden to enter the building to conduct 11 scheduled interviews with Williams seniors.

The group, led by Tony Kronman '68, began to form on the steps of the career counseling offices in the old TDX house at 8:15 a.m. An unknown party immediately informed the security office of the disturbance.

By 8:25, 16 protesters were present, and Security Officer Peter F. Gelheiser arrived at 8:29. He pointed out that Mr. Russell could go in the back door, and the group immediately deployed a guard to cover that entrance.

After the group refused to move to the sidewalk at Mr. Gelheiser's request through group spokesman Norman Hirsch '70, who explained the group's moral commitment, Mr. Gelheiser left to summon Student Affairs Dean Donald Gardiner '57.



"Am I to be allowed into my office?" Career Counseling Director Manton Copeland '39 asks members of the Committee on Action and Resistance yesterday at 8:33. Norman Hirsch '70, on far right, spoke for protesters against on-campus CIA recruiting. Photo by Mike Jencks

At 8:33, Career Counseling Director Manton Copeland '39 confronted the demonstrators. Hirsch asked him if he was from the CIA, and he replied, "Don't flatten me." The group let him in the building after he queried, "Am I going to be allowed into my office?"

When asked what procedure the recruiter would follow, he replied, "Ordinarily he'd come in the front door. That's probably what will happen."

Dean Gardiner strolled up the walk at 8:52, commenting, "Well here's Tony of the mountains (referring to Kronman). Any Theta

Deltas here?" His humor caught some of the protesters off guard, and several snickers were heard.

Kronman told the dean that the demonstrators would not leave until "the interviews were called off." Dean Gardiner then went into a private conference with Hirsch and entered the building to talk with Mr. Copeland.

The first student to be interviewed forced through the crowd at 8:57, and by 9 the protesters numbered 30, with seven at the back door, where the real action was to take place.

At 9:09 Dean Gardiner and Mr. Copeland approached Mr. Russell who had been sitting in his car in the rear parking lot for about five minutes. After a brief, private discussion terminated by Mr. Russell's statement, "President Johnson will be unhappy about the whole thing," Mr. Russell drove off.

Muttering that all the deans were "corporate liberals," Kronman decided to wait to see if Mr. Russell would return, but after three phone calls to Mr. Russell at Nov. 9.

The Williams Inn, and a curt "no comment" to this reporter, Mr. Russell left the campus.

At 10:33 the group left Brainerd Mears House for the dean's office to get an affirmation that the interviews would be held off campus.

Dean Gardiner stated, "We are upset that you chose to prevent something that was scheduled. I think there's a difference between disruption and protest. The thing on Convocation Weekend was legitimate and proper. This wasn't."

Nonetheless Dean Gardiner reported that the administration had decided to remove the CIA interviews to an off-campus location.

The group gave no definite indication of what was planned for the Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds representative due here Monday, the Marine Corps recruiters who are scheduled to interview here Thursday, or the Coast Guard recruiters who will be here the following Thursday.

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